

61,000 Photo Enforcement Violations Cited in 2008

Number of tickets issued decreases over time

The City of New Orleans issued 61,531 citations in 2008 as a result of the implementation of the safety camera program.

But the number of citations issued is decreasing as residents become more accustomed to the cameras and commit fewer violations. National trends show that the number of violations occurring at safety camera-enforced intersections decreases the longer a camera has been active.

Prior to the April 2008 launch, the City estimated that there were 986 red-light violations per day at the 17 intersections that now have the safety cameras. In December 2008, the City issued only 145 tickets per day for running red lights, an 85 percent decrease. Similarly, prior to the June 2008 activation of the cameras' speed monitoring system, the City estimated that there were 978 speeding violations per day at the 17 intersections. In December 2008, the City issued only 154 tickets per day for speeding, an 84 percent drop.

"Our goal is to make New Orleans' roadways safer as drivers modify their driving habits and realize they can no longer run red lights and speed through intersections," said Robert Mendoza, Director of Public Works. "The 84 percent decrease in the average violations last year shows red-light running and speeding were common occurrences and how effective this program has been. Public Works will definitely be expanding the safety camera program in 2009, and because this program is self funded by violators and does not require additional tax revenue, the expansion will not be affected by the current budget shortages."

The highest number of tickets issued in 2008 occurred in October with 11,745 tickets issued -- 6,428 for red-light running and 5,317 for speeding.

The safety camera system is an automated system that employs a combination of digital still and video cameras and detection equipment at a given signal approach or span of roadway. Each day, a commissioned officer reviews all alleged violations and relevant images and video to determine if a violation occurred. If the officer determines a violation has occurred, citations are issued to the registered owner. The first camera became active in New Orleans in April 2008.

The cameras are located at the following intersections:

- Southbound North Carrollton Avenue at Canal Street
- Eastbound Canal Street at North Carrollton Avenue
- Northbound South Carrollton Avenue at Palmetto Street
- Southbound South Carrollton Avenue at Palmetto Street
- Northbound South Carrollton Avenue at Earhart Boulevard
- Southbound South Carrollton Avenue at Earhart Boulevard
- Eastbound Earhart Boulevard at South Carrollton Avenue
- Westbound Earhart Boulevard at South Carrollton Avenue
- Eastbound Poydras Street at Loyola Avenue
- Eastbound Poydras Street at St. Charles Avenue
- Westbound Poydras Street at Magazine Street
- Westbound Poydras Street at Carondelet Street
- Eastbound St. Charles Avenue at Washington Avenue
- Southbound St. Charles Avenue at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Northbound St. Charles Avenue at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Westbound (toward Uptown) St. Charles Avenue at Louisiana Street
- Eastbound (toward Downtown) St. Charles Avenue at Louisiana Street

"We're very pleased with our vendor, American Traffic Solutions, and our safety program," concluded Mendoza. "Our next expansion involves installing five speed only cameras and we hope to have them operational by April."

The next speed only camera locations are:

- Northbound Louisiana at Galvez
- Nouthbound Louisiana at Galvez
- Northbound Paris at Prentiss (school zone)
- Southbound Paris at Prentiss (school zone)
- Eastbound Florida at Milne

Quick Facts

Violation Fines (excluding \$35 cost of enforcement fee and \$5 surcharge)

- Traffic Control Signal Violation – \$100
- Speeding (1 – 9 mph over) – \$40
- Speeding (10 – 14 mph over) – \$75
- Speeding (15 – 20 mph over) – \$125
- Speeding (Greater than 20 mph over) – \$200
- Late fee for unpaid violations – \$75 (vehicles with unpaid violations past the second notice are boot-eligible and subject to immobilization fees)

For more information on the City's program, visit www.cityofno.com.

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